



PgC\PgD\MsC in Advanced Forensic Practice (Subject to Validation)

Introduction

Finally, an award designed by nurses for those who work in the field of forensic medicine. This long awaited innovation is the first forensic qualification, professionally badged by the United Kingdom Association of Forensic Nurses (UKAFN), providing recognition in this specialist field.

This course has been developed in collaboration with the Faculty of Science and the Law School and utilises their unique resources of a full size court room for assessments by qualified legal experts in providing oral evidence in court, along with a fully refurbished Crime Scene House, complete with CCTV and an observation room, where you will be assessed by forensic experts and experienced ex-police officers. The award is aimed at all nurses and healthcare professionals working in a custody, or sexual offences role. The course will be competency assessed and has been developed with consideration to the NMC and Department of Health core elements of Advanced Practice.

This award will underpin the legal, forensic and clinical knowledge to ensure practitioners work in an evidenced based manner and will fulfil the requirements to be a competent witness in court. The course will embrace the principles set by the FFLM, UKAFN, NPIA, along with other regulatory and professional bodies and for those following the custodial pathway. The content will include PACE, Safer Detention and Handling, along with the Road Traffic Law. For those following the sexual assault pathway, this will include competency in assessing victims of sexual assault, aftercare needs and understanding the evidence base related to sexual assault.

UKAFN are working towards creating a register for all those who are trained to the minimum standards set within the UKAFN Code of Practice and are developing with the Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine, Quality Standards of Professional Practice. Successful students on the Postgraduate certificate will fulfil the entry criteria to the Register of UKAFN Approved Practitioners.

Postgraduate Certificate in Advanced Forensic Practice in Custody or Sexual Assault depending which Clinical module is undertaken - 60 Level 7 Credits	
Introduction to Forensic Practice Core 15 Credits at Level 7 Jan 2012 – April 2012	Professional Legal Skills for Non- Lawyers Core 15 Credits at Level 7 Sept 2012 – Jan 2013
Clinical Competencies in Forensic Examination in either Custody or Sexual Assault Core 30 Credits Level 7 Jan 2012- Jan 2013	

Postgraduate Diploma - 60 Level 7 credits or maximum 45 Level 7 Credits and 30 Level 6 credits			
Option Module 15 Credits at Level 7	Option Module 15 Credits at Level 7 or Level 6	Physical Assessment Core 15 Credits at Level 7	Research Methods and Methodologies (Pre-requisite for Dissertation and PBC) 15 Credits at Level 7

Masters level – 60 Level 7 Credits
60 Credits – Dissertation/Project Based Change(PBC)

Option Modules on the Postgraduate Diploma level can be taken from a list of approved modules, depending on the award pathway of the student. For example, those undertaking the Sexual Assault Pathway may choose modules such as: The Law and Sexual Health; Sexual Health Advising; Managing those with HIV. Those working in a Custody setting may choose modules such as: Diabetes; Triage; Managing those with minor illness or injury; Alcohol use, referrals and treatments. There are also a number of choices open to students on both pathways; Independent prescribing, Mental Health Assessment of clients, Counselling skills, are just a sample of modules available. Students working in a dual role of both Custody and Sexual Assault settings and are able to gain competencies for both clinical competencies will be able to use the two option modules in the postgraduate Diploma to undertake the second clinical element thus obtain a dual award of both custody and sexual assault.

The Postgraduate Option modules are also an opportunity for those students who already have academic credits of Level 6 or above, which have not been used on another award and less than 5 years old, may be able to utilise them on the Postgraduate Diploma, provided the content matches the Award Learning outcomes. This will have to be approved by the Award team before being accepted as being able to contribute towards the award.

Entrance Requirements: Students will normally be required to have a first degree or above. Individual cases will however, be considered to determine whether professional qualifications or experience in the workplace can be accepted as equivalent for non-graduates. However, students should have evidence of recent academic work at Level 6 or above. It is advised if students who have not undertaken any academic work for some time, consult the award leader for advice on undertaking an academic module before being accepted on to the award. It is also essential that students will be employment within a Custody or Sexual Assault Arena as students will have to identify a clinical assessor in their workplace. Suitability for admission will be judged by the application form and references and where necessary, an interview.

Accreditation of Prior Learning: Students may apply for APL/APEL. Guidelines are available from <http://www.staffs.ac.uk/current/regulations/codeofprac/> to explain how this can be done.

Cost: £27.00 per credit although some modules you may choose for your option modules may have a difference in price.

Total cost for the Postgraduate Certificate is £1,620

Course Enquiries

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Faculty of Health, Staffordshire University

Blackheath Lane, Stafford, ST18 0AD

Further information and application forms are available from:

Lifelong Learning Team

T: 01785 353766

E: healthyoptions@staffs.ac.uk

Faculty of Health, Staffordshire University

Blackheath Lane, Stafford, ST18 0AD

The Faculty reserves the right to cancel any module/course/programme or to alter venues, times or cost. Final confirmation will be given at enrolment